

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A building module having an exterior shape generally of a cuboid having side, end, top and bottom faces, and fabricated from metal, the module being hollow and defining a space of a size suitable for occupation by a person, the module including fastening elements to allow the module to be fastened to another adjacent module and to allow for engagement by standard load handling equipment for handling freight containers, wherein the module has an overall exterior width greater than 2700 mm and includes a first set of fastening elements in the region of a first end of the top of the module and a second set of fastening elements in the region of a second end of the top of the module, the first set of fastening elements and the second set of fastening elements of each set each including two fastening elements spaced apart from one another at a centre-to-centre spacing of about 2260 mm, each of the two sets of fastening elements operably connected to other fastening elements of other modules by a connector element having a plate, a first lug, and a second lug, wherein the plate is located between the first and second lug such that the first lug is projecting upwardly from the plate and the second lug is projecting downwardly from the plate, and wherein each of the first and second sets of fastening elements comprises more than two fastening elements at locations spaced across the top of the module, each fastening element being spaced from another fastening element at a centre-to-centre spacing of about 2260 mm, and wherein each of the first and second sets of fastening elements includes fastening elements at the opposite side edges of the top of the module.

2. (Original) A building module according to claim 1, in which the two fastening elements are symmetrically positioned on opposite sides of a central vertical plane of the module.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which the first and second sets of fastening elements are provided at opposite ends of the container.
6. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 1, in which there are respective elongate members in the region ~~35~~ of each of the eight edges of the cuboid and a plurality of metal panels secured to at least some of the elongate members.
7. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 6, in which there are metal panels secured on all of the side and end faces ~~5~~ of the cuboid.
8. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which there are metal panels secured on the top and bottom faces of the cuboid.
9. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 7 in which at least some of the metal panels are corrugated.
10. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 7, in which at least some of the panels are of composite construction and include insulating material.
11. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which one or each side face of the module is partly closed by a panel and is partly open.
12. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which one or each end face of the module is partly closed by a panel and is partly open.
13. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 11 in which the partly open face or one of the partly open faces extends from a region at the bottom of the face to a region at the top of the face.

14. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 11, in which the partly open face or one of the partly open faces extends upwardly from a region partway up the face.
15. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, including a kitchen pod containing kitchen fittings and occupying a minor part only of the interior volume of the module.
16. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, including a bathroom pod containing bathroom fittings and occupying a minor part only of the interior volume of the module.
17. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which the module includes fastening elements for fastening the module to an adjacent module placed alongside.
18. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which the module includes fastening elements for fastening the module to an adjacent module placed in end-to-end relationship.
19. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which the module includes fastening elements for fastening the module to an adjacent module placed immediately above or below.
20. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 1, in which at least some of the first and the second set of fastening elements are provided in the region of the eight corners of the module.
21. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 1, in which at least some of the first and the second set of fastening elements are defined by hollow blocks with openings through which connector elements can be inserted.

22. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 21, in which at least some of the first and the second set of fastening elements are provided with openings in their top, side and end faces, or bottom, side and end faces.

23. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 21 in which the connector elements and hollow blocks are arranged such that after a connector element has been inserted into an opening in a hollow block it can be fastened in the opening.

24. (Original) A building module according to claim 23, in which the connector elements and hollow blocks are arranged such that after a connector element has been inserted into an opening in a hollow block it can be fastened in the opening by a fastener entering the hollow block through another opening and engaging the connector element.

25. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 23 in which the connector elements are fastened in the hollow blocks by fasteners ~~screw~~-threadedly engaging the connector elements in the hollow blocks.

26. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 21, in which each of the at least some of the first and the second set of fastening elements~~connector elements~~ include a connector element that has a first part for insertion into an opening in one fastening element of one module and a second part for insertion into an opening in another fastening element of another module.

27. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 21, in which each of the at least some of the first and the second set of fastening elements~~connector elements~~ include a connector element that has a first, second, third and fourth parts for insertion into openings in respective fastening elements of first, second, third and fourth modules.

28. (Currently Amended) A building module according to any claim 21, in which each of the connector elements at least some of the first and the second set of fastening elements

include a connector element that has eight parts, each for insertion into a respective opening in a fastening element of a respective one of eight modules.

29. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 1, in which ~~additional a~~ third set of fastening elements are provided partway along the a first bottom end edges edge of the module, and a fourth set of fastening elements are provided partway along a second bottom end edge of the module.

30. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 1, in which the overall exterior width of the module is in the range ~~of~~ 2700 mm to 5000 mm.

31. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which the overall length of the module is in the range of 6000 mm to 6100 mm.

32. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 1, in which the overall length of the module is in the range ~~25~~ of 12100 mm to 12300 mm.

33. (Previously Presented) A building module according to claim 1, in which the overall length of the module is in the range of 13600 mm to 13800 mm.

34. (Currently Amended) A building module according to claim 1, in which the exterior of the module is fitted with a plurality of additional fastening elements for interfacing with an external wall cladding system ~~and/or~~ a roofing system.

35. - 39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A multiplicity of modules ~~for fastening~~ fastened together to form part or all of a building, each module having an exterior shape generally of a cuboid having side, end, top and bottom faces, being hollow and defining a space suitable for occupation by a person, and including a plurality of fastening elements that are adapted to fasten each module to other modules, each of the plurality of fastening elements operable to receive a connector element having a plate, a first lug, and a second lug, wherein the plate is

located between the first and the second lug such that the first lug is projecting upwardly from the plate and the second lug is projecting downwardly from the plate.

42. (Currently Amended) A multiplicity of modules according to claim 41, the majority of the modules having a width which is approximately one, two or three times a given unit width.

43. (Currently Amended) A multiplicity of modules according to claim 41 the majority of the modules having a length which is approximately one, two, three, four or five times a given unit-length.

44. (Original) A multiplicity of modules according to claim 43, in which at least one module has a length which is less than one fifth of the length of the longest module.

45. (Currently Amended) A multiplicity of modules according to claim 41, further including a foundation interface having a lower face for resting on foundations and an upper face carrying connector elements for engagement with a plurality of fastening elements located on modules to fasten the modules each of the multiplicity of modules and operable to fasten each of the multiplicity of modules to the foundation interface.

46. (Original) A multiplicity of modules according to claim 45, in which the foundation interface is in the form of one or more rectangular rings.

47. (Currently Amended) A multiplicity of modules according to claim 41, further including an ~~inter-storey~~inter-story interface for placing between ~~storeys~~stories of modules, the ~~inter-storey~~inter-story interface having a lower face carrying first connector elements for engagement with a first plurality of fastening elements on modules in a storey-story immediately below the interface and having an upper face carrying second connector elements for engagement with a second plurality of fastening elements located on modules in a storey-story immediately above the interface.

48. (Currently Amended) A multiplicity of modules according to claim 47, in which the ~~inter-storey~~inter-story interface is in the form of one or more rectangular rings.

49. (Currently Amended) A multiplicity of modules according to claim 41, in which each module is according to any of claims 1 to 40 includes fastening elements to allow the module to be fastened to another adjacent module and to allow for engagement by standard load handling equipment for handling freight containers, wherein the module has an overall exterior width greater than 2700 mm and includes a first set of fastening elements in the region of a first end of the top of the module and a second set of fastening elements in the region of a second end of the top of the module, the first set of fastening elements and the second set of fastening elements of each set each including two fastening elements spaced apart from one another at a centre-to-centre spacing of about 2260 mm.

50. (Previously Presented) A building including a multiplicity of modules according to claim 41, the modules being fastened together to form part or all of a building with aligned openings in adjacent walls of adjacent modules to allow a person to move from one module to another.

51. (Original) A building according to claim 50, including a plurality of modules fastened together in side-by-side relationship.

52. (Previously Presented) A building according to claim 50, including a plurality of modules fastened together in end-to-end relationship.

53. (Currently Amended) A building according to claim 50, in which there are a plurality of ~~storeys~~stories of modules, the modules in one ~~storey~~story being fastened to modules in an adjacent upper and/or lower ~~storey~~story.

54. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a building at a site, the method comprising the following steps:

fabricating a plurality of modules according to claim 1 at a location remote from the site, ~~each module being generally in the shape of a cuboid and including fastening elements;~~

transporting the fabricated modules to the site, and

fastening together the said other fastening elements of modules to connect the modules together with aligned openings in adjacent walls of adjacent modules to allow a person to move from one module to another,

each of the fastening elements receiving a connector element having a plate, a first lug, and a second lug, wherein the plate is located between the first and the second lug such that the first lug is projecting upwardly from the plate and the second lug is projecting downwardly from the plate.

55. (Original) A method according to claim 54, in which the fabricated modules are engaged by their fastening elements to secure them during the transporting step.

56. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 54, in which the modules are engaged by their fastening elements to move them into their final positions at the site.

57. (Cancelled)